

1592 Vernon Street
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3M7
3 March, 1990

Right Honourable Joe Clark
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Clark,

Further to my letter of 3 February, I am writing to bring to your attention some further developments regarding the plight of the people of East Timor:

(1) There are reports of many detentions including torture and reprisals in the wake of the independentist demonstration at the end of the Pope's visit to East Timor on 12 October last year.

(2) About 100 Timorese students studying in Indonesia risked taking a public stand by signing a letter to the Secretary-General of the UN, supporting the call of Bishop Belo in his letter of 6 February, 1989 for the withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor and a national referendum.

(3) On December 26, Timorese university students in Bali staged a demonstration against the repression being experienced by their colleagues in East Timor. One of these students is reported to have later been found dead in a river, an autopsy indicating that he had died of suffocation before entering the water.

(4) On January 17, a group of about 100 young Timorese began a peaceful demonstration and meeting with U.S. Ambassador Monjo at his hotel on a visit to Dili, East Timor. After the Ambassador left the hotel to go to another meeting, Indonesian military and police attacked the demonstrators, killing at least three.

On previous occasions, you have called upon the Indonesian government to open up East Timor to international contacts. Therefore, I suggest that you now have a special responsibility to call for the protection of the human rights of the East Timorese who are risking expression of their views in the current relative opening. You also have a responsibility to hear those views, which indicate that there are many East Timorese who do not accept the Canadian government's position that the Indonesian occupation of East Timor is "irreversible in practice".

The Indonesian government will also ignore these calls as long as it believes it has the support of countries such as Canada to continue its military solution. Yet there is an avenue for a political solution to the problem of East Timor, through the (currently unproductive) consultations between the Indonesian and Portuguese governments, under the sponsorship of the Secretary General of the UN. These consultations could be expanded to include representatives of the East Timorese themselves. Canada could have a key role in a peaceful resolution of the problem of East Timor by ending its support of Indonesia's military solution in East Timor, and joining with all the countries of Europe, which support a political solution. I urge you to adopt such a policy course.

Yours sincerely,

Peter K. Stokoe.